

A. WEBSTER, Editor  
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### The Recent Conference.

Our recent conference held in Centenary Church in this city, was a time of unusual interest. Bishop Baker in making the arrangements for the conference, found it needful to have it a month earlier than what it was previously appointed. The notice of the change was not received until a short time before the conference was to meet. Since the purchase of the Westworth street church, with many other needful repairs, our people had not been able to reconstruct the pulpit and build an altar, which was greatly needed. But the ladies bearing that the conference was so near at hand with characteristic promptness and efficiency, entered upon the work of raising funds, and seeing that the work was accomplished. In two weeks the pulpit was rebuilt, a neat and tasty altar erected, and new carpets laid, and final arrangements made and after procuring the house repaired and furnished for lighting with gas, all at a cost of nearly a thousand dollars, and nearly all of the money required to defray these expenses raised. "This success in making preparation for conference, clearly developed the interest felt by the people in anticipation of its exercises, and shows that they have still some energy and ability, notwithstanding the poverty of the South, and the burdens under which they have been oppressed.

The Conference embraced this State and Florida, and was organized one year ago next month by Bishop Baker. At that time we had, including probationers, three thousand one hundred and thirty-seven Church members, and sixteen local preachers. We now have a membership, including probationers, of nine thousand six hundred and sixty-eight, and a hundred and three local preachers. We had nearly forty preachers in attendance upon the Conference, and the proceedings were marked with great harmony and good feeling. Rev. J. M. Walden, D.D., the Secretary of our Freedmen's Aid Society, presided over the Conference of this session.

He was in this section for the purpose of being present to represent the wants of this field to the New England Conference, which he expects soon to visit in person.

Franklin Rand, long known by his connection with the publication of *Zion's Herald*, and Lee Claflin Esq., of Boston were with us during the session. Both of these brethren from New England, have a great interest in the prosperity of our work and attended the examination of the students at the Institute, and the various exercises of the conference, and expressed themselves as happily disappointed in the condition and prospects of our work here.

The Sabbath was one of the greatest days ever enjoyed by our people here, the members of the conference preached at several churches in the city. Bishop Scott preached at the Westworth street church in the morning a very appropriate and edifying sermon, from Acts 2:39. As he preached, the people had faith in God's impartial truth and promise, and the Holy Ghost fell on those who heard the word. At the conclusion of the Bishop's sermon, twenty preachers were ordained deacons. Rev. B. F. Whittemore, of Darlington, preached in the afternoon, at the Spring-street church, after which, Bishop Scott ordained four Elders. Missionary meetings of unusual interest were held in two of our churches in the evening.

### Sunday School Celebration.

One of the most prominent and pleasing features of the incidental Conference exercises, was the Sabbath School celebration which took place on Monday afternoon at the Centenary Church. The performances were happily varied, and peculiarly spirited from beginning to end. The scholars were trained in dialogue and recitation by Rev. Wm. O. Weston, to whose patience, skill, and perseverance the brilliant success of that part of the performance is altogether to be attributed. The material was good, however, and bright boys and girls reflected credit upon themselves and their teacher, by the life and spirit and talent which they threw into the performance.

The singing also deserves honorable mention. It was very fine, and excited the enthusiastic admiration of all who heard it. The credit of culture and training in this department is due to

Rev. Thomas Chipperfield, who has been indefatigable in his efforts to improve the voices, and cultivate the musical talents of his pupils. "Marching On," was sung with life, spirit, and artistic skill, and was considered the gem of the occasion.

At the close of the exercises, the audience was addressed in a few brief, complimentary remarks by Bishop Scott, and Rev. W. J. Cole.

### Glorious News from Congress.

The Military, Reconstruction Bill, which will be found in another column, has been passed over the President's veto, and Union men, without distinction of color, are to manage the affairs of reconstruction, and frame a Constitution for the State, prior to representation in Congress.

There is another Bill before Congress supplementary to this, which we have no doubt will pass immediately, which provides for the raising of loyal militia in every district in the South, to be armed and drilled like the old State militia, and called on to "overpower" a mob, or quell an insurrection, gotten up by white or black men.

The political sky is brightening; gold has gone down five per cent. in five days; our Governor believes in impartial suffrage; and more momentous questions are now discussed by "My Policy" editors and politicians, than show they can clean out the Yankees, and put the niggers in their place. Let us thank God, and take courage.

### Pearl Disaster.

STEAM SHIP ANDALUSIA BURNT AT SEA.

### TWELVE LIVES LOST.

On Sunday night last this noble steam ship was burnt on her passage from New York to this place off Hatteras.

Twelve lives were lost, and a cargo valued at \$500,000. Thirty-five passengers were saved by the steamer "Manhattan" who providentially was only three miles distant.

Going into eternity from a burning ship with only a few moments to choose between death by fire or water, is awful to contemplate! and to those who were not Christians—what a time to prepare for eternity!! "Be ye also ready," is the Divine command.

We understand that quite a large and enthusiastic meeting of the loyal citizens of Charleston was held a few evenings since for the purpose of taking into consideration the proper course to be pursued by them, under the new order of affairs inaugurated by the passage of the Military Reconstruction Bill.

### South Carolina Mission Conference.

The South Carolina Mission Conference met for its 2d Annual Session, at the Centenary M. E. Church, Charleston, So. Ca. March 2d 1867, at 10 o'clock a. m. Bishop Scott, present, opened the Conference by reading the 3d and part of the 4th chapters of 2d Corinthians; singing the 218th Hymn. C. Holman leading in prayer, after which the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered.

The roll of the Conference was then called by the Secretary of the previous Conference.

Bishop Scott then presented the transfer of Calvin Holman, an Elder in good standing in the New Hampshire Conference, transferred by Bishop Baker to this Conference. Also, the transfer of R. James Donaldson, a deacon in good standing in the New Hampshire Conference, transferred by Bishop Simpson, to this Conference.

The Conference then proceeded to the appointment of a Secretary for the Conference, when, on motion, Alonzo Webster was duly elected to that position, and Charles P. Wolhaupter, Assistant Secretary.

On motion, T. W. Lewis, and C. Holman were appointed a committee to nominate the several Conference Committees. The Committee on nominations presented the following report which was adopted.

- On Education:
- B. F. Whittemore,
- A. Webster,
- B. F. Randolph,
- On Temperance:
- J. A. Sasportas,
- L. Ackerman,
- J. Felder,
- H. D. Owens,
- State of the Country:
- B. F. Randolph,
- J. C. Emerson,

Tom Phillips,  
Isaac Davis,  
James Rosemond,  
M. French,

On the religious condition and wants of the South:

T. W. Lewis,  
R. J. Donaldson,  
W. J. Cole,  
L. A. Anders,  
Isaac Johnson.

On Conference Societies,

J. C. Emerson,  
W. J. E. Fripp.

On Sunday Schools,

T. Chipperfield,  
W. J. Cole,  
A. Middleton.

On the Charleston Advocate,

Franklin Rand,  
Lee Claflin,  
J. M. Walden, D.D.

On Missions,

T. W. Lewis,  
C. Holman.

On public worship,

A. Webster,  
Thos. Chipperfield.

The following were confined on trial.

Joseph A. Sasportas,  
Henry D. Owens,  
Thomas Phillips,  
Francis Smith.

The following were admitted on trial.

John R. Tamblin,  
William Darlington,  
Richard Townsend,  
Edward J. Snetter,  
James Rosemond,  
Abram Middleton,  
Joseph White,  
Liverus Ackerman,  
Vincent H. Bulkley,  
B. F. Whittemore,  
Isaac Davis,  
Henry E. Forsyth,  
Lyman A. Anders,  
William Doby,  
Isaac Johnson,  
Benj. Gannon.

The following were elected to deacons' orders.

Charles Hopkins,  
Liverus Ackerman,  
John Mimms,  
John R. Tamblin,  
Richard Townsend,  
January Felber,  
Scipio O. Rea,  
Abram Middleton,  
William Darlington,  
E. J. Snetter,  
Stephen Jett,  
Joseph White,  
James Rosemond,  
Thomas Chipperfield,  
William Salmon,  
Benjamin Gannon,  
Isaac Davis,  
Lyman A. Andrews.

Isaac Johnson, Wm. Doby, Joseph A. Sasportas, John B. Tamblin, Samuel Weston, R. James Donaldson, were elected for Elders orders.

Various notices were given and the Conference adjourned.

Monday, March 4th, 9 o'clock a. m. Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Scott in the chair. Religious exercises were conducted by Wm. J. Cole. The minutes of the previous session were read, corrected and approved. The committee on the *Charleston Advocate* presented their report, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote. The Bishop then presented the certificates of the ordination of the twenty deacons and four elders upon the Sabbath.

The committee on the Religious condition and wants of the South then presented their report which was adopted. C. Holman and T. W. Lewis presented the following resolution which was adopted:

*Resolved*:—That the following salutation be addressed by telegraph to the speaker of the House of Representatives now in session at Washington.

Charleston, S. C. March 4th, 1867.

The members of the South Carolina Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church now in session, send greeting to Congress, and devout thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the passage of the Reconstruction Bill, to protect in their rights, all classes in the South. M. French was appointed to see that the message was telegraphed to Congress.

The committee on Sabbath Schools, and on Education, presented their reports, which were adopted, and the Conference adjourned.

Tuesday, March 5th.—Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Scott

in the chair. The religious exercises were conducted by Tom Phillips. The Journals of the last session were read and approved.

Charleston was fixed upon as the place of holding the next session.

The report on Temperance was presented and re-committed. Some were not satisfied with it for the reason that it did not mention tobacco as among the articles not to be used by temperate ministers, hence they wished a resolution on that subject appended.

The report on the State of the Country, was presented and adopted. Major General R. K. Scott, having been introduced to the conference, made some very appropriate remarks in regard to the condition and wants of the freedmen along the coast, and in reference to the course of conduct to be pursued in the present state of affairs in the state.

Took up the character of the effective elders. T. W. Lewis gave a very interesting statement in regard to the state of the work upon the Charleston district. It has been greatly prospered during the year. The membership and church property have been greatly increased. After representing his district, his character passed, and those of the effective elders under his charge.

C. U. Ham, of the Florida district gave an account of his work, and his character passed. Brother Holman returns to the N. H. Conference, after spending a short time in the work here. His labors have been prospered, and the field he represents is one of great promise to our cause. The following resolution was passed.

*Resolved*, That we extend to Brother W. J. E. Fripp, and his family, our fraternal sympathy in his present illness, which has deprived him and us of the pleasure and profit of his presence at this session of our Conference; and pray for his speedy restoration to health, and his faithful and efficient labors among us, as a minister of Christ.

The Bishop then presented a communication from Rev. Messrs. F. A. and H. Mood, asking the return of the Spring st. Church to the M. E. Church South. The memorial was read, and on motion referred to the assistant commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for this Department, and a committee appointed to reply to the memorialists.

The committee on statistics presented their report.

January Felber and Benjamin F. Randolph were admitted on trial in the traveling connection.

The credentials of B. F. Randolph, and B. F. Whittemore, were recognized by the conference, and they appeared before the conference, and took upon themselves the ordination vows of our Church. The report on temperance was presented, and adopted.

B. F. Whittemore presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

*Resolved*:—That this conference presents thanks to the people of Charleston, for their generous hospitality, Christian courtesy, and unwearied attention to its members during the present session; and we give them a place in our grateful recollections, and fervent prayers, that God may reward them with the richest blessings of his grace.

M. French presented the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted by rising votes:

*Resolved*:—That the labors and counsels of our President, Bishop Scott, during the session of our conference, have endeared him to all our hearts, and inspired us with fresh zeal and faith for our future work, and leaving us we assure him of our prayers not only for his safe return, but efficient usefulness for many years to come in our beloved Zion.

*Resolved*:—That we sympathize with our beloved Bishop Baker in the affliction which has deprived the conference of his presence and counsel, and that president Bishop Scott, be required to express the same to him, and also to assure him that he has our prayers for his speedy recovery, and a long life of usefulness in the Church.

J. C. Emerson and January Felber were appointed a committee to report constitutions for the organization of conference societies.

The Committees of examination were announced by the Bishop as follows:

### ON FIRST YEAR.

T. W. Lewis,  
W. J. E. Fripp,  
M. French.

### SECOND YEAR.

A. Webster,  
J. C. Emerson,  
R. J. Donaldson.

### FOR ADMISSION ON TRIAL.

### The Presiding Elders.

Conference Sermon; M. French, Missionary Sermon; B. F. Randolph. The minutes of the present session were then read and approved.

The Bishop announced and conference joined in singing the 221 hymn.

William Salmon offered prayer, which was followed by interesting remarks by the Bishop, in which he expressed his pleasant surprise at the unexpected prosperity of the work within the conference, and the difficulty which he had found in making himself believe that he was really in the city of Charleston S. C. He then read the appointments and conference adjourned.

### APPOINTMENT OF THE PREACHERS.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT.

T. Willard Lewis, Presiding Elder. Charleston—A. Webster; one to be supplied.

Beaufort—W. J. E. Fripp, Wadmalaw and Edisto—H. D. Owens, John's and James' Islands—R. Townsend.

Ashepool—J. Middleton, Ashley River Circuit—J. C. Gibbs, Charleston Neck—To be supplied, Summerville Circuit—J. A. Sasportas, Mt. Pleasant—Francis Smith, Kingstree Circuit—Wm. Darlington, M. Holly—To be supplied, Orangeburg—Tom Phillips, Edisto Forks—Wm. Dannerly, Barnwell Circuit—A. Middleton, Camden Circuit—W. J. Cole, Flat Rock—Britton Brown, Greenville and Spartanburg Circuits—James Rosemond, V. H. Bulkley, Florence—E. J. Snetter, Sumter Circuit—J. R. Tamblin, Lynchburg—Jos. White, Marion—J. H. Hale, Darlington—L. Ackerman, Timmonsville—Stephen Jett, Cheraw—To be supplied, Oro—R. J. Donaldson, Bennettsville—To be supplied, M. French, Chaplain in the Army.

B. F. Whittemore, Superintendent of Education in Eastern South Carolina, B. F. Randolph, Assistant Superintendent of Freedmen's Schools in South Carolina.

#### FLORIDA DISTRICT.

J. E. Emerson, Presiding Elder, Fernandina—J. Felder, St. Marys—To be supplied, Greenfield—G. Greely, Jacksonville—To be supplied, Gainesville—Isaac Davis, Ben. Gannon.

Newnansville—Isaac Johnson, Wm. Doby.

Ocala—To be supplied, Garden—H. E. Forsyth, Micanopy—L. A. Anders, St. Augustine—To be supplied, New Smyrna—To be supplied.

#### EASTERN GEORGIA DISTRICT.

To be supplied.

After a most interesting and eloquent address by Bishop Scott, the Conference adjourned on the evening of the 5th inst.

The Committee on the *Charleston Advocate* made the following

### REPORT

Among the manifest signs of progress in the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church during the past year, we hail as one of the most auspicious, the recent establishment in the city of Charleston, of a free and loyal press. To us it is an earnest that our cause has passed beyond the period of experiment and suspense, and has become a permanent and recognized fact.

Though our history as a Conference is but brief, it shows us clearly that without a newspaper in our sympathy, and under our control, we should always labor under serious embarrassments. With this new power brought to our aid, we shall be able to explain and vindicate ourselves when misrepresented and assailed by those who would hinder our work. It will be also serve to keep our rapidly increasing membership informed of the doctrines and doings of our church beyond our own borders, and afford a new bond of communication and union among ourselves; and we rejoice to know that it will be a faithful and efficient "advocate" of the freedmen, who will be its chief patrons; and will aid to develop in them a true and intelligent Christian manhood.

The three issues of the paper already published, are highly creditable to the Editors, the Publisher, and the Printers, the latter of whom, we are please to learn, are all colored men. We are happy to learn also, that the circumstances under which the enterprise is begun are peculiarly favorable. The cost of the entire outfit of press and types will not exceed twelve hundred dollars, most of which

sum has been loaned by our generous friend, Lee Claflin, Esq. The paper will be under the editorial supervision of Dr. Webster, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Lewis and Randolph. Besides this, Brother H. J. Moore, who has had considerable experience in Editorial labors, will devote his entire services as office Editor and Publisher. With these advantages we are not without hope that the paper may become self supporting from the commencement, especially if our friends at the North will lend it a helping hand.

The following resolution is submitted for the action of the Conference.

*Resolved*, That we welcome with pride and pleasure the advent of the *Charleston Advocate*; that we adopt it as our Conference organ, and that we will make immediate and persistent efforts to procure for it two thousand subscribers, needed for its present support.

FRANKLIN RAND,  
for the Committee.

### REPORT

Of the committee on the "Religious condition and wants of the South."

Your committee would respectfully beg leave to report. That from the facts which have been presented for our consideration, we are forced to the conclusion that this Southern country is, morally and religiously, in a most deplorable condition.

While we find many, chiefly among the colored population, who are faithful servants of Christ; the great mass seem to be destitute of vital Godliness.

The ravages of the late war, while prostrating the material wealth of the country, seems to have also paralyzed the churches, many of which are without Pastors; whole districts being for months without public worship.

The social means of grace are in many instances either neglected or abandoned; while drunkenness, immorality, and profanity, prevail to an alarming extent. Under these circumstances your committee believe it to be the duty of the Northern Church to send forth into every section of this prostrate country, men of energy and power to preach the gospel in this wide, open field.

Instead of a few self-denying men as at present, we require, and must have, hundreds, who, by their zeal and diligence shall plant the gospel, with all its social and elevating agencies, in every town and hamlet of the South. Therefore,

*Resolved*, 1st., That it is the sense of this conference, that, whereas the M. E. Church, from her greater numbers, wealth, and influence, has done more to foster prejudice and caste than any other, it is the duty of the mother church, with a Christ-like magnanimity, to bend all her energies to break down prejudice and infuse energy into the dormant churches of the South.

*Resolved*, 2nd., That whereas the field is large and already white for the harvest, "but the laborers are few," it is the duty of our Northern Conferences to send us from their abundance, men in such numbers as will enable us to occupy the positions from which the cry for help is coming up so urgent and emphatic.

*Resolved*, 3d., That we request our presiding officer, Bishop Scott, to bring our needs before the ensuing conferences over which, in God's providence, he may be called to preside, and to transfer to to us such brethren as may be desirous of coming over to help us.

*Resolved*, 4th., That we deem it of the utmost importance that every effort should be put forth for the education of young men who have the gifts and graces for the work of the ministry.

*Resolved*, 5th., That in accordance with the principles of Christianity, and the usages of Wesleyan Methodism throughout the world, we shall, in our work, recognize the common brotherhood of man, and ignore all distinctions, in Church or State, on account of race or color.

### LETTER FROM CAMDEN.

We received a kind letter from our old school-mate, Miss S. A. Babcock, author of "Itinerant Side," now teacher at Camden.

Were it not for the press of Conference matter in our columns this week, we should insert it in full.

It recounts the sensation the first number of the *Advocate* produced, when presented to the congregation by the Pastor, Rev. W. J. Cole. About twenty subscribers were obtained, and all said, by a "sing vote," that "it could, and should be sustained," and we are certain, if we had plenty of Camdens, we should not lack subscription or good wishes.